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FUGITIVE SLAVES IN UPPER CANADA.

WE have much pleasure in calling the attention of our friends to the following Report, presented by the Rev. Hiram Wilson to Messrs. George A. Avery, Lindley M. Moore, and O. N. Bush, Executive Committee of the Canada Mission, giving some interesting particulars of the condition and prospects of the coloured refugees in Upper Canada.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CANADA MISSION.

Two years have elapsed since the mission of justice and humanity, among the self-emancipated refugees in Canada, was placed, by a large convention, at Le Roy, N. Y., under your supervision. During this period, our work, though subject to changes and fluctuations, favourable and adverse, has gone steadily forward.

The loving kindness of the Lord has crowned the efforts of the past year. The cause of emigration, from cruel oppression to the land of promise, has prospered. We venture to state, as a moderate estimate, that 1,500 of your countrymen have broken their fetters during the year, and are either safe in Canada, or safely sheltered in the midst of anti-slavery communities on their way. We know not that a much larger number than usual have passed the provincial line the last year; but we are happy to know that the facilities for escape from slavery have greatly increased in the free states. Vigilance committees have been doubly vigilant, and increasingly efficient, particularly on the Philadelphia and New York route. It would seem as if they had received, afresh, the heavenly mandate—"Thou shalt not deliver unto his master the servant which has escaped from his master unto thee." Nothing is more manifest than that a spirit of Samaritan-like kindness towards the wandering fugitive from slavery, is rapidly spreading and prevailing, which will soon mock the decision of judges, and the diabolical enactments of law-making sons of Belial. It is fast becoming unpopular, to aid and abet in the delivery of a human being into the *hideous fangs of slavery*. As evidences of this, we have but to cite the cases of Hackett and Latimer.

In the case of the unfortunate Nelson Hackett, who, by stratagem and duplicity, was imprisoned five months at Sandwich, and conducted, under covert of night, across the Detroit river, and hurried thence into slavery, your agent has held a correspondence with the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, and communicated to them such facts as the nature of the case would furnish. We trust that, hereafter, the British authorities will act, in similar cases, in accordance with the recent decision of Judge Morrow, of Missouri:—"That a negro slave could not commit forgery, as, by the constitution and laws of the country, negroes are not recognised as *persons*, any more than any other animals."

Notwithstanding the fate of poor Hackett, the thousands of refugees in Canada never have felt more secure, under the protection of British law, than at present. They generally observe the laws of the land as peaceable subjects, and are prospering under the mild and benignant sway of Victoria's sceptre. The Government under which they have the happiness to live, dispenses favours to its subjects, of different hue, with an impartial hand. Hence, in one of the most inviting regions of the province, between the head of Lake Ontario and Lake Huron, coloured emigrants are rapidly settling upon free grant lots, of fifty acres each, in common with emigrants from England, Scotland, and Ireland. Large numbers, in accordance with oft-repeated advice from our lips, are forsaking their menial and other occupations of cities and villages, and turning their attention to the more honourable and useful employment of husbandry. By reason of prejudice, which prevails among the ignorant and vicious in Canada, as on your side of the line, the common schools of the country are not generally open to them and their children; but public sentiment is gradually changing for the better. The Government has taken far more efficient and liberal measures the past year, to promote education, than ever before; and in the general diffusion of the blessings of science, it is to be hoped that the coloured population will have their full share.

The greatest difficulty we have experienced has been a want of means with which to reward teachers for their services. Could British subjects be had to teach nine months in the year, they could readily draw Government money, which would in part support them. During the first quarter of the year eleven schools were in successful operation, which embraced about 400 pupils. Most of these were suspended through the summer. I am sorry to say that, for want of teachers, and the means of supporting them, six important places, hitherto occupied, are vacant; to wit, Toronto, Niagara, St. Catharine's, Colchester, London, and the Wilberforce colony. Fourteen labourers are now in the field, supplying, but in part, the need of so many thousands. They are variously occupied in doing good to the coloured people. Their names and locations are as follows: Isaac

J. Rice, Amherstburgh; Josiah Henson (agent), Colchester; William P. Newman, Elias E. Kirkland and wife, Fidelia Coburn, Sybil Clary, and Hannah M. Wilson, Dawn; Emerson Prescott, Brantford; Mary C. Sheppard, Norwich; Gilbert O. Field, Queen's Bush; A. Raymond and wife, Oro. John Fishpool, minister of the gospel from England, is extending his ministerial services occasionally to the coloured people of Chatham; whilst his son, who was once imprisoned in New Orleans for teaching slaves to read, is now giving instruction to coloured soldiers, and others, there, in an evening school. Brother Rice has had a flourishing school, the year round, and has done much good otherwise in the neighbourhood of Freedom's West Gate, which has been thronged with emigrants.

Your attention is earnestly invited to the British American Institute of Science and Industry, lately founded in the township of Dawn, which promises to be extensively useful. It is designed not to supersede, but greatly to subserve, the interests of common schools, by training up teachers; and is to be conducted strictly on the manual labour system. Students over fifteen years of age are to have instruction free of cost, and to be furnished with plain but wholesome diet and lodging, at one dollar per week, to be paid in work, for which they will be allowed five cents per hour. They are to be trained thoroughly upon a full and practical discipline, which aims to cultivate the *entire being*, and elicit the fairest and fullest possible developements of the physical, intellectual, and moral powers. A little more than a year ago, 200 acres of unimproved land, were purchased near the head of navigation, on the river Sydenham, sixty miles north by east from Detroit.

Possessing the advantages of a healthy climate, of a milder type than that of Central New York, or the more southern states of New England, a navigable river, abounding with fish, and communicating with the waters of the great American lakes; a fertile and productive soil; well timbered, well watered, and most beautifully situated; the efficient and persevering hand of industry; the protecting shield and fostering care of a powerful Government; the auspices of British and American philanthropy combined; and, above all, the propitious smiles of Heaven, it cannot but flourish and prosper, and be a blessing to the country, and to posterity. We wish our British friends, who contributed their gold and silver into the hands of our trusty friend, James C. Fuller, for the object, to know, that upon this beautiful spot, which seems, by traces left, to have been a pleasure ground for Indians, in by-gone years, a small company, representing three different nations, formed a semi-circle under the spreading branches of a mighty oak, a little more than a year since, gave thanks to God most high, with reverence bowed the knee, and consecrated the ground to the King of kings, and to the cause of humanity. There are now twelve acres cleared, and mostly under good fence; three dwelling-houses up and occupied; as also a school-house, of a story and a half, affording a school-room sufficiently large for fifty or sixty scholars, with a dormitory that will accommodate twenty. The school was organized on the 12th inst. with nine young men. We should not despise the day of small things. By dint of assiduous and persevering toil we have prepared accommodations for thirty boarding students, and expect to have that number the present winter. We hope, ere long, to have the institution chartered by an act of the Provincial Parliament. It is expected, also, that James C. Fuller will, ere long, present its claims to the British public. Should British American philanthropists feel that lively interest in its advancement for which the necessities of the deeply-injured refugees from slavery loudly call, means will not be wanting to prepare accommodations the ensuing year for at least 200 students; nor will teachers be wanting to give them instruction.

Twenty boxes of clothing, bedding, shoes, &c., have been received, and distributed here and elsewhere, and twelve more have been heard from on their way, which failed of arriving before navigation closed. Several of the boxes were highly valuable, and of essential service to the institution. From the developements of philanthropy, it clearly appears that a growing interest is felt among the Dorcas-like women of America, in behalf of the poor exiles from the Bastille of slavery. Boxes should be carefully directed, and seasonably forwarded to Dawn Mills, *via* Buffalo and Detroit, in the care of Martin Wilson, Esq., of the latter place. A list of the articles should come in the box, and a letter at the same time by mail.

Since the removal of your agent from Toronto, large numbers of fugitives have arrived at that place, and have not been provided for, as was desirable they should be. Mr. James C. Brown, a vigilant and trusty gentleman of colour, of that city, has for months been overburdened with care and labour, in attending to the welfare of fresh emigrants from the South, without having received adequate means of sustaining him. We would therefore suggest, that some of the boxes intrusted from time to time to your care, as the com-

mittee, be forwarded to him, for distribution, as also some means of defraying the necessary expenses incurred in the work.

We would not fail to notice the welcome visits to our happy shores, during the summer and autumn, of two zealous friends of humanity, viz. Robert Brown, of the New York Vigilance Committee, and Charles T. Torrey, of Albany. It is hoped that others, of kindred spirit, may be induced to make tours of benevolence through the province.

It has fallen to the lot of your humble agent to superintend the interests of the mission, and education generally, among the refugees. Our cup has been mingled with joy and sorrow. We have had conflicts, powerful and protracted, which were followed by victories, triumphant and glorious. Our labours, at home and abroad, have been more abundant than in any previous year. Like the apostle to the Gentiles, we have learned "both how to be abased, and how to abound; both to be full, and to be hungry; both to abound, and to suffer need;" but we cheerfully testify, that, by the grace of God, "we have not laboured in vain, nor spent our strength for nought." Respectfully submitted.

Dawn Mills, County of Kent, Canada West, Dec. 31, 1842.

LETTERS FROM TRINIDAD.—No. I.

TO JOHN SCOBLE, ESQ., &c. &c.

Trinidad, Feb. 1, 1843.

SIR,—You will allow one who feels deeply interested in the well-being of this portion of Her Majesty's empire, in every sense of the word, to offer a few thoughts on some of the past and present movements in reference to West Indian affairs. Amongst this group of colonies, there is not one which has attracted greater attention, both at home and in its own immediate neighbourhood, than Trinidad. Over and over again has its condition been represented as quite peculiar, and in one breath have its distresses and unparalleled capabilities been urged upon the serious attention of the Home Government. That the matter might be placed in the strongest possible light in Downing-street, some half-dozen blustering attorneys, two or three influential planters, with our island organs of information, took it into their heads to constitute themselves the "Trinidad Agricultural and Immigration Society;" and further formed themselves into a "Board," purporting to receive all the impartial evidence that might be offered for their and the Home Government's information respecting the state of affairs in this island. The Hon. William Burnley, who was the original *schemer* of the whole, was chosen chairman, and most assiduously did he perform his part. The mass of evidence adduced has long since appeared in print, prefaced by about forty pages of conclusions drawn from it, and suggestions offered by the honourable gentleman who called the whole into being. You have no doubt read it, perhaps with surprise and deep concern at the *facts* it revealed. There is, however, this redeeming circumstance in it, that nearly all the discoveries they pretended to have made were known to few in the colony, besides the parties concerned in getting up this mock examination of witnesses. The whole of the evidence given is quite *ex parte*, and the individuals affording it form a class. It is hardly necessary to exclude the clergymen, who figured as witnesses on the occasion referred to, from this accusation, they being more or less interested in falling in with the views of the Committee before whom they appeared. Except to themselves, the place and time for receiving evidence were quite unknown to the public, until the proceedings of each sitting were published in the colonial papers after it was terminated. Evidence received on such exclusive principles appears to me to be entitled to little respect or attention. The views held by the hon. Chairman for years before were those which appeared throughout the whole evidence, though it was attempted to represent them as of a later origin. A new scheme of slavery was contemplated by the originator of the "Agricultural Society," if he could succeed in establishing certain positions as true on which to base his future propositions to the Secretary for the Colonies. The favourable reception of his views at the Colonial Office depended much, indeed altogether, upon previously proving the demoralized and inefficient state of the emancipated labouring population. Could he establish this point, in connexion with the almost ruined state of the sugar-growers, he conceived he should have a strong claim on the Home Government for some concessions to mitigate their distress. For this purpose the above-named "Board" was formed, and evidence received. You must have observed these two particulars much dwelt upon in the questions from the chair, and the same occupying a very prominent place in the plan proposed for the consideration of the Colonial Society. The scheme of emancipation, they said, having so signally failed, in having produced nothing but disorder and confusion, dissipation and general distress throughout the colony, they conceived they could reasonably claim from the British Government, as the authors of the whole, some consideration in return for their blind legislation. With perfect astonishment I read from time to time in the colonial papers of the evidence establishing the general distress of the colony, while I read in the same organs of the increased value of imports, and the doubling of the colonial revenue in a few years. The rising up of decent villages in all directions, and the clearing out and cultivating of land, fully satisfied me that the distress complained of was but partial, if it existed at all; and that, however a few individuals might have suffered, general prosperity characterized the island. Nor was it with less surprise I saw an attempt made to establish the oft-told tale, that the negroes will not work, while the island exports flatly contradicted the whole tissue of falsehood upon which it was based. The great demoralization of the labourers set forth in the evidence, and to prove which particular pains were taken, seemed to lean, after all, upon the "gratuitous supply of rum dealt out by the very planters" who were endeavouring to rob the emancipated labourers of their well-merited reputation for general good conduct. The party engaged in this disgraceful affair seemed to stop at no right, no matter how dear or sacred, in order to carry out, if possible, their darling scheme of African immigration, i. e. to purchase humanity, or trepan human beings. The "ignorant and docile African," who had never been degraded and demoralized by freedom, nor deteriorated by moral and religious tuition, would, according to Mr. Burnley, and his trumpet, Mr. H. Maxwell, answer the

purposes of the planter much better than any others to be found. This was the height of their ambition; nor had they the slightest apprehension as to the results of large importations, morally considered, provided they were distributed among the "dissipated" native labourers of the colony. Observe the consistency of these men! Many a time do they cut their own throats. Having completed the whole design, they hastened to inform the Secretary for the Colonies of the unparalleled capabilities of Trinidad, if properly developed; entered into details respecting its physical appearance,—fine levels, fertile valleys, and numerous rivers; and after this fine gilding, dwelt upon the much-to-be-lamented degradation and inefficiency of the labouring population, and all—every word—founded on the most satisfactory evidence. Then follows the most audacious prescription, as a cure for all the woes with which they—certainly not the island—were afflicted, viz., a free communication for *coerced voluntary emigration* from the west coast of Africa. I need hardly assure you that in Trinidad there are thousands of living witnesses to testify to the utter falsity of most of the evidence upon which such a recommendation is based. You may be surprised that no attempt was made by them at giving a contradiction to such false charges at the time. Had there been an organ in which confidence could be placed, it would have been the case instantaneously; but the newspapers here being both the creatures of the planters, that could not be expected. And further, the party and the proceedings were viewed with such unqualified contempt, because of their base attacks on the defenceless labourers, who were, at that very time, faithfully performing their duties on the estates of their calumniators, that many who would have solicited an opportunity to offer evidence of a contradictory character, condescended not to mix up with the affair, conceiving that the whole production of the Committee, when presented to the Secretary for the Colonies, would be treated with that inattention which it deserved. I find both the Resolutions passed by the Committee of the House of Commons, and the Report of the "Land and Immigration Committees," to whom this evidence was submitted by Lord Stanley, have fully exonerated the emancipated labourers of this island from the aspersions cast upon them. The latter document, in particular, was remarkably explicit on this point, pronouncing as inconclusive and unsatisfactory the very evidence that was intended to form the foundation of every future proposition. Notwithstanding this, I observe, the Government appear disposed to comply, in some measure, with the demands of West India planters, though the very great necessity for such a compliance remains to be shown. If reference be had to the clearing and cultivation of the whole of this fine island, then I would say 50,000 or 60,000 souls might be introduced; but if to the properties under cultivation at present, an abundance of labour is at this moment in the market. This cannot be denied.

To introduce the thousands called for by the planters, while they stop up every channel of egress from the cane piece, will, I much fear, be followed by untold misery and oppression to the labourers already in the field. I may venture to affirm, that most of the estates in the island have as many hands as they require. Several of the conductors have informed me on this point. You will think it not a little remarkable, that some estates are always ill supplied with labour, though they generally draw more largely than most others from immigrant vessels arriving here. The secret lies here, either the people find the localities unhealthy, or experience less encouragement to remain than other properties present; hence nearly the whole stream of immigration is kept open, in the first instance, for the sole benefit of such estates. I doubt much, whether the condition of such properties will ever be improved, even should other localities be amply stocked, except from bitter necessity on the part of a too dense labouring population, which is exactly the state into which Mr. Burnley and a few others would reduce them. I observe from the *Port of Spain Gazette* a long letter from Mr. B., defending himself against your observations in reference to the locking up of immigrants in the yard of Messrs. Losh, Spiers, and Co. He quotes from a pamphlet, published by him in 1823, as a proof of his sincerity in emancipating his slaves; but were you to consult the whole of that production, I doubt not other and opposite principles would be found to prevail. His whole conduct is tortuous. I forward you a copy of the *Gazette*, containing his letter and the slave-holding principles of the editor. My next, for I beg again shortly to trouble you, shall be strictures on Mr. B.'s evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, contrasting it with the real state of affairs here, and proving that four-fifths of the whole is not founded in fact.

I remain, &c.,

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SLAVERY IN BRITISH INDIA.

On Saturday, the 25th ult., a Memorial on Slavery in British India, praying for its immediate abolition, was presented to Lord Fitzgerald and Vesci, President of the Board of Control, by a deputation consisting of Messrs. J. Sturge, W. Ball, J. Beaumont, S. Allen, J. Scoble, and M. L'Instant. We are obliged to defer the insertion of the Memorial until our next number, when we hope we shall be able to indicate the course which the Anti-Slavery Committee intend to pursue on the important subject to which it refers.

The deputation was received by Lord Fitzgerald with great courtesy, and informed that some months since the Government had indicated to the authorities in India the measures which they judged to be necessary in order to carry the intentions of the British Legislature on the subject of slavery in India into effect. His Lordship assured them of his anxiety to promote the object they had in view, though he might differ with them as to the means by which it was to be accomplished. The next mail from India, his Lordship expected, would contain intelligence whether the measures recommended had been adopted by the Governor in Council.

In reference to the abolition of slavery in the British settlements in the East, to which the deputation called his Lordship's attention, he informed them that instructions had been given for the entire abolition of slavery in Malacca, Penang, and Singapore; and he believed they were sufficiently comprehensive to embrace Province Wellesley. But to prevent the possibility of mistake on this point,

his Lordship stated that he would forward to India by the next mail additional instructions on the subject.

Though the Committee, in their last Report, had stated that the Government would probably take this course, they cannot but congratulate their friends on its official announcement, especially as by this act several thousands of degraded and oppressed slaves will be put in possession of their personal liberty and social rights, and a most nefarious and cruel slave-trade terminated.

BRITISH GUIANA.—SUGAR CROP OF 1842.

"It is judged that the crop of last year, with all the advantages of superbly favourable weather, falls short by 5,000 hogsheads of the very short crop of 1841; but the fact is not yet positively ascertained." So said the planter's oracle, the *Guiana Times*, in its summary of news of the 2nd January last; and so said its echo in this country, the *Colonial Gazette*. The design of the *Times* is, by the grossest misrepresentation of facts, if not by direct falsehoods, to induce the supposition in this country that emancipation in British Guiana has proved a failure, with the view of serving the base purposes of the selfish party it represents, and to found upon it the most absurd of theories and demands. These misrepresentations being generally useful in sustaining the doctrines advocated in the *Colonial Gazette*, are duly retailed through its columns, with such notes and comments as will give them prominence and point. Now we venture to entreat our home contemporaries, if not for the love of truth, at least for the sake of humanity, not to give them its sanction, inasmuch as their direct tendency is to strengthen and extend the slave-trade and slavery in other countries, both which it professes to abhor.

The quotation at the head of this article has gone the round of the newspapers, and is quoted, by the enemies of emancipation on the Continent and in the United States, as conclusive evidence of the madness of British philanthropy, and the folly of statesmen listening to the ravings of fanatics against slavery. Happily we are enabled from time to time to place before our readers, facts in contradiction of the bold and unwarranted assertions of our contemporaries, by which it is clearly seen that the beneficial results of emancipation are becoming more and more apparent; and that its real enemies are found to be the men who formerly tyrannized over the slave, and who still continue to oppress and malign him as a free man.

We close our remarks by a brief, but important extract from the *Guiana Royal Gazette* of the 16th January, which came to hand by the last packet, and which we commend to the Editor of the *Colonial Gazette* for insertion in the next number—

"The *Times*, in its last 'Summary to go by the Packet,' predicted that the exports of 1842 would fall short of those of 1841 some five thousand hogsheads of sugar. In point of fact, the exports of 1842, as appears by the Custom-house returns, exceed those of 1841 by 2,012 hogsheads of sugar; 1,715 casks of molasses; and 1,088,450 lbs. of coffee. The strike at the beginning of the year must have diminished the export by some three or four thousand hogsheads of sugar at the least. We will now try our hand at a prediction; to wit, that the exports of 1843 will exceed those of 1842 by seven thousand hogsheads of sugar."

THE SUGAR TRADE OF THE WORLD.

We are indebted to the *Times* for the following digest of information respecting the cultivation of sugar in various parts of the world, and the proportions received by the principal European powers, founded on the very able and accurate work of Dr. F. W. Dieterici, entitled, *Statistische Uebersicht der Wichtigsten Gegenstände des Verkehrs und Verbrauchs im Preussischen Staate und in Deutschen Zoll Vereinen in dem Zeitraume von 1837-9*. After some preliminary observations, the author says:—

"Carl Ritter, in his interesting treatise upon the geographical distribution of the sugar-cane, and its accompanying map of the old world, shows that the sugar-cane has its natural home in the middle of Eastern Asia; that it was thence diffused through Bengal, and other parts of India, through Cochin China and China, whence it spread in two groups, one lying to the westward of the Indus, through the borders of Asia, Northern Africa, along the south of Europe and North America; the other, which he calls the eastern group, from the Sunda Islands through the islands in the South Sea, inside the Tropics, towards the western coast of America.

"Leaving out of the question Bengal and the coast of India, Cochin China, and China, the culture of sugar in the old world is carried on upon a very diminutive scale, chiefly on the coast of Asia in a line with the Caspian Sea, in Africa, in Egypt and Dongola, and in a line along the coast, also in Madagascar. The small islands of Bourbon and Mauritius, however, must be excepted, as both these islands are amply furnished with the cane.

"It is well known that Von Humboldt in his works has given tables which prove the fact, that since the middle of the last century the Antilles of America have chiefly supplied the sugar required for European consumption; and, indeed, it has been proved incontestably that 89 per cent. of all exports from sugar countries come from America."

The author, quoting from Ritter, seems to apprehend that the production of slave-grown sugar is falling off rapidly, and will still continue to decrease; and speculates upon the probability of such circumstances being likely to restore the production and trade in sugar to a great extent back to its original and native clime.

To show the extreme care and accuracy with which Dr. Dieterici compares statements and calculates results, we will quote the following passage:—

"Rodet (*Revue des Deux Mondes*) says that the general production of raw sugar for the years 1831-2, so far as it could be ascertained from the

trade of Europe, North America, and the countries on the coast of the Mediterranean, was as follows:—America, Mauritius, and Bourbon (by which are included the whole of the West Indies, Cuba, Porto Rico, Guiana, and Bourbon, Brazil, and Louisiana) produced 1,216,000,000 lbs., equal to 11,055 million centners; Asia, including Java, Bengal, Singapore, and China, 106,90 million pounds, or 0,972 centners, making a total of 12,027 million centners. On the other hand, one of the most important commercial houses in London, (Suse and Sibeth,) in their printed trades list for March, 1839, give the following as the total production of sugar:—English colonies, 4,800,000 centners; French colonies, 1,860,000 centners; Danish ditto, 120,000; United States, 1,000,000; Spanish colonies, 4,100,000; Dutch ditto, 1,440,000; Brazil, 2,100,000; Siam, China, &c., 200,000; beet-root sugar in Europe, 2,400,000;—making a total production of 18,020,000 centners.

"It must be here remarked, as regards the English and French colonies, our figures apply to the crop for 1839; but as respects other countries we have taken the produce of the foregoing year, as affording ground for greater certainty.

"Ferner has said that the actual quantity of beet-root sugar is not less than 1,500,000 centners, whereof two-thirds were made in France, the remainder in Belgium, Holland, Austria, &c.; we conceive, therefore, that the quantity given above, of 2,400,000, in Messrs. Suse's tables, is much too high.

"The total production of colonial sugar, deducting this 2,400,000 centners, would be, therefore, according to Messrs. Suse's calculation, 15,620,000 centners: Rodet sets it down for the years 1831-2 as 12,027,000 centners.

"Both figures must, therefore, be taken with allowance, inasmuch as Rodet has taken only the quantity exported by America, but has allowed nothing for the quantity consumed in that country, which, according to Von Humboldt, is an item of extraordinary importance. In the trades papers, on the other hand, the crop of the foregoing year is taken as the data by which the production of the English and French colonies is ascertained.

"Now, as regards the data afforded by these papers, as fixing the amount of the outward trade of Asia and America, there is no question but that they may be depended on; but they must fail in ascertaining the production of sugar, as it is quite certain that China and Siam produce more than 200,000 centners. Indeed, many circumstances would lead us to believe that this proportion is infinitely too low; and, indeed, it is beyond doubt that the sugar produced in Asia has infinitely increased within a short period.

"According to Rodet, Asia produces 1-11th of all the colonial sugars; the *London Gazette*, however, shows us at once that the Asiatic production is as follows:—East Indies, 500,000 centners; Manilla, 600,000; Java, 1,000,000; Siam and China, 200,000;—together, 2,300,000 centners, which is more than 1-7th of the whole colonial production. Java, according to Rodet, is set down at 389,000 centners; the *Gazette* says 1,000,000 centners, which is a difference as 2 to 5. Dr. Siberg gives the produce of Java in 1830 at 108,640, and in 1836 at 509,513 piculs; which, at 132 lbs. per picul, would give 67,000,000 lbs, which is in proportion as 1 to 4.

"Taking, therefore, all these matters into consideration, and making allowances for the uncertainty of the home consumption in the producing countries, perhaps 17,000,000 or 18,000,000 centners of colonial sugar may be taken as the result of the general crop, of which about one half may be taken as the European consumption.

"In our former work we have assumed 9,000,000 to 10,000,000 centners as the average consumption of Europe, calculating from the works of Rodet, Von Humboldt, M'Culloch, and the various trades' papers in Europe; and the exceedingly well-digested tables of Mr. Consul Delius at Hamburg, together with a comparison of the trade lists of Hamburg, Rotterdam, &c., it states the quantity imported and stored in Europe for 1837 to 1839 as follows:—

	1837	1838	1839
Imports	946.9	1,138.8	1,031.3 million lbs.
In store	162.3	232.0	235.2 "

"By which it may be considered that the total import extends from 9,000,000 to 10,000,000 centners annually, which, taking the averages of the years 1837, 1838, 1839, the author shows were distributed as follows:—

	Million lbs.	Per cent.
Hamburg	91.67	or 8.82
Bremen	13.66	or 1.32
Amsterdam	102.03	or 9.82
Rotterdam	50.70	or 4.88
Antwerp	37.77	or 3.64
Havre	61.75	or 5.94
Bordeaux	25.03	or 2.41
Marseilles	64.72	or 6.23
Genoa	23.60	or 2.27
L'ghorn	11.80	or 1.14
Trieste	61.47	or 5.91
English harbours....	491.80	or 47.62
Total	1,039.00	100. "

It is a melancholy fact, that about two-thirds of the whole quantity of sugar referred to in the foregoing accounts are grown in the slave colonies of France, Spain, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, the southern sections of the United States, and Brazil; involving an amount of guilt and degradation, suffering and murder, from which the humane and Christian mind shrinks with horror.

SLAVERY IN HONGKONG.

We have learnt, with the deepest regret, that a system of slavery, degrading to the British name, has been permitted to spring up at Hongkong, which, unless immediately extirpated, will become the nucleus of a most formidable evil, oppose immense obstacles to the progress of Christianity and civilization in that colony; and operate most injuriously upon the Chinese throughout the whole of the ce-

lestial empire. It is of the highest importance that the authorities and people of China should be impressed, from the beginning, with the fact, that the people of this country detest slavery, injustice, and oppression, in all their forms; and are intensely desirous that the blessings they themselves enjoy should be participated by the whole human race.

The following extract is from the *Friend of China and Hongkong Gazette*, which has been forwarded to us, by some unknown hand, for which we feel extremely obliged:—

"We have before pointed out the incompatibility of the existence of slavery in a *British Colony*. It exists here, in one of its most hideous forms, if it be true, that female children have been kidnapped at Canton, and from the villages adjacent, brought to our island, and sold to infamy. We dare not trust ourselves to speak on this subject; for the honour of our country, we would wish to add, *but cannot*, that only *natives* are implicated in this detestable traffic.

"Without invoking 'the grave consideration and special interposition of the Imperial Legislature,' or awaiting its decision, we would fain hope his Excellency the Plenipotentiary, will deem it his bounden duty, or rather his high privilege, to declare, by proclamation, that a slave, by putting his foot on our island becomes free, henceforth *there*, man cannot hold property in his fellow man.

"In justice to all who, under the faith of our governing according to Chinese usage, may have removed hither with their slaves, we would permit their removal. If, however, such removal did not take place within a stipulated time, all such remaining should be declared free. We affirm a policy, such as we have pointed out, would be heartily approved by the Government and people at home, who, to the glory of our land, are heart and soul agreed on the question of slavery."—*Hongkong, November 3, 1842.*

If, as is intimated in the foregoing extract, some of our own countrymen are implicated in the nefarious transactions alluded to, they have been guilty of felony, and should be prosecuted forthwith. The same remark applies to Chinamen and others. Hongkong being a British Colony, the introduction of slaves therein, the purchase and sale of human beings, for any purpose whatever, by any parties, is piracy and felony, and may be dealt with accordingly.

It is to us a most cheering circumstance, that the first journal established at Hongkong should be so thoroughly alive to all that gives dignity and honour to our native land. Never did we feel the value of the sound portion of the British press, in the distant possessions of the Crown, more than in the present instance.

NOTICES.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER is an Evening Paper, published on alternate Wednesdays, and may be had of all News-venders throughout the country. Price 4d., or 8s. 8d. per annum.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WE regret that we are compelled a second time to postpone the concluding remarks on the works on Spanish slavery, which appeared in the three first numbers of the *Reporter* of this year. Want of space also obliges us to defer the publication of the remaining parts of the Cuban Slave-code, together with other important papers on different branches of the anti-slavery question. The important communication of a Jamaica Overseer, for which we are much obliged, is under consideration. We take this mode of stating to our respected contemporaries, the Editors of the *Friend of India* and the *Friend of China and Hongkong Gazette*, that we shall be happy to exchange papers with them. To the former we return our thanks for his able advocacy of the case of the Coolies, and to the latter for his exposure of the system of slavery introduced into Hongkong.

Subscriptions and Donations to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society should be forwarded to the Treasurer (G. W. Alexander, Esq.) at the Society's Office, 27, New Broad-street, London.

All Communication for the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* must be sent to the Office of the Society, as above.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, MARCH 8, 1843.

THE system of American slavery, whether viewed in its legal character, or its practical operation, is atrocious. It not only strips its victims of every personal and social right, but reduces them to the condition of *chattels personal* in the hands of their masters. The law of South Carolina says, "Slaves shall be deemed, held, taken, reputed, and adjudged in law to be personal chattels, in the hands of their owners and possessors, and their executors, administrators, and assigns, to ALL INTENTS, CONSTRUCTIONS, AND PURPOSES WHATSOEVER;" and the laws of all the other slave states of the United States are in perfect accordance therewith. "The cardinal principle of slavery," says Judge Stroud, "that the slave is not to be ranked among sentient beings, but among *things*, obtains as undoubted law in all the slave states." It may be easily conceived, that any people who could deliberately frame such a law as this, would be prepared to exact all that it implies most rigorously, and such is the fact. The history of American slavery, whether traced in the pages of a Jefferson, the proceedings of courts of law, the admission of slaveholders, the observations of travellers, or the annals of abolitionists, presents as black a record of human crime and suffering, as the world ever saw.

According to Judge Stroud, the slaveholder may determine the kind, degree, and time of labour to which his slave shall be subjected; the quantity and quality of the food and clothing to be given him; the amount of punishment to be inflicted on his person; and the powers vested in him by law he may devolve on his agent. The slave has no legal right of property—all he acquires belongs to his

master. The slave being a *personal chattel*, may at any time be sold, mortgaged, or leased, at the will of his master, or in satisfaction of his debts, by his creditors or legatees. The slave can be no party to any species of action against his master, no matter however atrocious the injury received from him. The slave cannot redeem himself, nor obtain a change of masters, though cruel treatment may have rendered such changes necessary for his personal safety. The slave being an object of *property*, if injured by third parties, their owners may bring suit, and recover damages for the injury. The slave can make no contract, and the system under which he is degraded and oppressed, is hereditary and perpetual! Such are the leading features of American slavery, as attested by Judge Stroud, in his able "Sketch of the Laws relating to Slavery, in the several States of the United States of America."

Another ornament of the American bench, Judge Jay, the son of the distinguished John Jay, in a brief notice of the same subject, thus graphically and truthfully sums up the miseries of the slave:—"Such is American slavery—a system which classes with the beasts of the field, over whom dominion has been given to man, an intelligent and accountable being, the instant his Creator has breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Over this infant heir of immortality, no mother has a right to watch, no father may guide his feeble steps, check his wayward appetites and train him for future usefulness, happiness, and glory. Torn from his parents, and sold in the market, he soon finds himself labouring among strangers under the whip of a driver, and his task augmenting with his ripening strength. Day after day, and year after year, is he driven to the cotton or sugar-field, as the ox to the furrow. No hope of reward lightens his toil; the subject of insult, the victim of brutality—the laws of his country afford him no redress; his wife, such only in name, may, at any moment, be dragged from his side; his children, heirs only of his misery and degradation, are but articles of merchandise; his mind, stupified by his oppressors, is wrapped in darkness; his soul, no man careth for it, his body, worn with stripes and toil, is at length committed to the earth like the brute that perisheth."

As to the practical operation of the slave-laws, the actual working of the system, it might be sufficient to say, that they constitute every slave-holder a tyrant; that they let loose the most impure and fiercest passions of human nature; and therefore give to the depravity, the pride, and the brutality of man ample scope to manifest themselves in all their horrid and disgusting forms. But we think it necessary, at the present time, to glance at the startling disclosures contained in "Weld's American Slavery as it is," a book which has been circulated by tens of thousands in the United States during the last five years, without the slightest attempt at refutation, and which may be regarded as a model of patient research, accurate discrimination, and powerful writing. Mr. Weld, in his preface, says:—

"We will prove that the slaves in the United States are treated with barbarous inhumanity; that they are overworked, underfed, wretchedly clad and lodged, and have insufficient sleep; that they are often made to wear round their necks iron collars armed with prongs, to drag heavy chains and weights at their feet while working in the field, and to wear yokes, and bells, and iron horns; that they are often kept confined in the stocks day and night for weeks together, made to wear gags in their mouths for hours or days, have some of their front teeth torn out or broken off, that they may be easily detected when they run away; that they are frequently flogged with terrible severity, have red pepper rubbed into their lacerated flesh, and hot brine, spirits of turpentine, &c., poured over the gashes to increase the torture; that they are often stripped naked, their backs and limbs cut with knives, bruised and mangled by scores and hundreds of blows with the paddle, and terribly torn by the claws of cats, drawn over them by their tormentors; that they are often hunted with blood-hounds, and shot down like beasts, or torn in pieces by dogs; that they are often suspended by the arms, and whipped and beaten till they faint, and when revived by restoratives, beaten again till they faint, and sometimes till they die; that their ears are often cut off, their eyes knocked out, their bones broken, their flesh branded with red hot irons; that they are maimed, mutilated, and burned to death over slow fires. All these things, and more, and worse, we shall prove."

Incredible as this statement may appear, it is more than borne out by an overwhelming accumulation of facts, drawn from sources which the slave-holder himself will not, and dare not question, for he stands convicted on his own testimony.

We call the special attention of our readers to these points—the law and the practice of slavery in the United States—that they may well consider the terrible fate to which every fugitive slave will be delivered, who, rightly or wrongly charged with crime, is handed over to the American authorities by the British Government under the Tenth Article of the Washington Treaty; and we solemnly ask, "Can you be parties to such an act?"

But it may be demanded, "Would you protect the criminal from punishment because he happens to be a fugitive slave?" We emphatically answer, "No," provided you give him a fair trial, before an impartial tribunal. In other words, provided you treat him in all respects as a free man, which he is by virtue of his having trodden on British soil; try him as a free man, convict him as a free man, and punish him as a free man, and on no pretence whatever allow him to fall into the hands of an enraged master, whose sole aim in recovering him may be vengeance, not justice. This is all the Anti-Slavery Committee require, and for this they contend; otherwise it would be better that the guilty should escape than that the innocent or even the guilty, after having endured the punishment of the law, should fall into the hands of their tormentors, from whom they had previously escaped at the peril

of their lives. The question then is, not whether the fugitive slave charged with crime, shall be allowed to escape punishment, but whether, having obtained the *status* of a free man within the British dominions, he shall be delivered for trial to the United States, without guarantees that he shall, in all respects, be regarded and treated as a free man, and be protected in his personal rights in case of acquittal, or after having undergone, if he survive, the penalty of the law?

In addition to the information contained in the memorial to Lord Aberdeen, relating to the tribunal before which slaves are tried, when accused of crime in the United States, we beg to subjoin a few particulars, by way of illustration. By the law of Tennessee it is provided, "that, in the trial of slaves for all offences where a jury is now required by law, it shall be the duty of the sheriff to summon three justices to preside on the trial, and twelve housekeepers, *being owners of slaves*, to serve as a jury on such trial; and should the jury find the slave guilty of the offence charged, the said justices shall proceed to pronounce judgment, and award execution according to law." But trial by a jury, even of this kind, is utterly denied to a slave, even in criminal accusations which may affect his life, in the States of South Carolina, Virginia, and Louisiana. In South Carolina, "all crimes and offences committed by slaves, for which capital punishment may be lawfully inflicted, shall be heard, examined, tried and adjudged, and finally determined, by any two justices of the peace, and any number of freeholders, not less than three, nor more than five," such justices and freeholders "to meet together" within "a period not exceeding six days after commitment," to "proceed to the examination of witnesses and other evidence, and finally hear and determine the matter brought before them in the most summary and expeditious manner; and in case the accused shall be convicted of any crime, for which, by law, the punishment would be death, the said justices shall give judgment, and award such manner of death, as said justices, with consent of said freeholders, shall direct, and which they shall judge will be most effectual to deter others from offending in like manner." This power to inflict any manner of death, frequently gives rise to the most horrid spectacles exhibited to the public gaze, such as burning to death, and other barbarous modes of execution. The law in Virginia is substantially the same, as to the constitution of the Court; the only difference being, that, instead of the two justices and three freeholders, five justices, without juries, shall be a competent tribunal for trying slaves charged with felony. In Louisiana the law is the same as in South Carolina, except that a Judge of the Court may preside, instead of two justices of the peace. For felonies slaves may be punished with death in its most terrible forms; for inferior offences, according to Judge Stroud, the penalty is scarcely less severe, viz. "*Corporal punishment, not extending to life or limb*," which he says, "may be more accurately defined, *any torture on the body of a slave, which can be practised without producing death or dismemberment*;" and should death ensue, while the slave is receiving what is termed "*moderate correction*," the laws of Georgia and North Carolina kindly denominate the offence, "*justifiable homicide*!"

We think we have now said enough to prove that we should be as barbarous as the slaveholders of the United States themselves, if we could deliver up any human being to them, or in any way recognise a code of laws, which violate every principle of justice and equity, and which are as monstrous and inhuman in their design, as they are cruel and murderous in their operation.

On Wednesday, the 22nd of February, the following gentlemen, viz., Messrs. G. Stacey, J. Forster, G. W. Alexander, J. Beaumont, W. Ball, H. Tuckett, S. Fox, S. Gurney, E. N. Buxton, and J. Scoble; Revs. J. H. Hinton and J. Carlile; Drs. Madden and Rolph, and M. L'Instant, members of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Committee, and friends of the abolition cause, waited on the Earl of Aberdeen, her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to present the subjoined Memorial on the tenth article of the Treaty of Washington, and its bearing on the security and freedom of fugitive slaves, who have sought refuge within the British dominions.

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ABERDEEN, &c., &c.

MY LORD,—Deeply impressed with the importance of the subject, and convinced that it requires and deserves the most mature consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society venture respectfully to call your early and serious attention to the bearing of the extradition clause of the Treaty recently negotiated between the Government of this country and that of the United States, in the case of fugitive slaves who have sought a refuge from oppression within the British dominions.

It has long been one of the chief glories of this land, as it is now of all its dependencies in the Western world, that the moment a slave touched its soil he was free, and became entitled to protection for his life, his liberty, and his property. The Committee, however, conceive that the clause referred to may become a weapon in the hands of the slaveholder for destroying the dearest rights of humanity—for violating the sanctuary of freedom in this country—and for compelling British functionaries of every class to become to the oppressor instruments of tyranny, in restoring to perpetual bondage his lost and highly-coveted prey. The operation of the clause extends to every part of the British dominions, including Great Britain and Ireland. Besides murder, *assault* with intent to commit murder, piracy, arson, and forgery, it embraces every

imaginable offence comprehended within the term robbery. It provides that a single justice of the peace shall be competent to decide on the committal of the accused, on *ex parte* evidence,—it may be the oath of a single witness, or the attested affidavit of a suborned person in the United States. Moreover, it gives no power to the executive to withhold the warrant of surrender in any case where the terms of the clause have been complied with. All that it requires is such *prima facie* evidence of criminality as, according to the laws of the place where the fugitive is found, would justify his apprehension and commitment for trial; and the surrender follows as matter of course.

In the case of a free man charged with a criminal offence, the barest amount of evidence is sufficient to warrant commitment and delivery; but, in his case, ample provision is made by law for his trial before an impartial tribunal, by a jury of his peers, with every possible means of defence that equity and humanity can afford. If innocent, he is acquitted; if falsely charged, he has his remedy; if guilty, he suffers that amount of punishment only awarded by the law against all similarly circumstanced with himself. The case is otherwise with the fugitive slave. On the barest amount of evidence, he also may be committed and delivered. But no impartial trial awaits him—no jury of his peers pronounces on his guilt or innocence—no means of defence are provided for him. His fellow slaves may be witnesses against, but not for him, nor against his master. His accuser may be a slaveholder; his jury, slaveholders; his judge, a slaveholder. Thus circumstanced, though he may be innocent, his escape from conviction is next to impossible; but should he be honourably acquitted, he is not therefore liberated from suffering. He falls into the hands of an infuriated master, to suffer the degradation and horrors of perpetual slavery, and the infliction of punishments the most terrible and revolting. But if found guilty, he is subjected to a far heavier punishment than if he were a free man. In Virginia, an old slave state, wilfully setting fire to any barn, &c., or advising, &c., the perpetration of such offence, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, payment of the value of property destroyed, and imprisonment for not less than two, nor more than five years. Breaking into any warehouse or storehouse, and taking money or goods to the value of four dollars, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, imprisonment for not less than one, nor more than ten years. Horse-stealing, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, restoring property stolen, and imprisonment for not less than five, or more than ten years. Attempting to commit a rape on a white woman, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, not a statutable offence, but punishable as an assault and battery, by fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the Court. Burglary, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, imprisonment for not less than five, nor more than ten years.

In Mississippi, a new slave state, wilfully burning a barn or stable, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, imprisonment, not exceeding six months, and paying damages. *Assault*, with intent to commit murder, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, a fine at the discretion of the Court, and imprisonment not exceeding one year, and exaction of surety of the peace. Attempting to commit rape, burglary, and robbery, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, imprisonment not exceeding one year. Horse-stealing, in the case of a slave, *death*—in that of a free man, not provided for by statute.

These are given by way of specimen; but, in looking over the various codes of laws now in operation in the United States, the Committee find that there are no less than seventy-one crimes punishable with death in the case of slaves, whilst in that of free men, for the same crimes, the highest penalty is imprisonment in the Penitentiary. Surely, my Lord, it were the height of injustice as well as cruelty, to surrender slaves to the vengeance of such laws, especially when it is considered that, in the event of capital convictions taking place, the value of the slave is paid for by the state, so that the master is no loser by his death, but a gainer in every case where the slave is surrendered for an alleged infringement of the laws. This leads the Committee to observe, that in the case of venial, or, it may be, even of grave offences, committed by free men, the injured party may not, for various reasons, pursue them; but the motives on the part of slaveholders to pursue their slaves are of the strongest kind. They have a large pecuniary stake in fugitive slaves; they fear the contagion of their example; and will use every means for recovering them, that they may not only demonstrate the insecurity of the British territory as an asylum of freedom, but for the purpose of striking terror into their miserable companions in bondage, by the severity of their punishments, or even by their death. It may therefore be fully calculated upon, that if they have the least ground on which to found a charge, they will avail themselves of it, to regain their victims; and it may be feared that, when no offence against law has actually been committed, or can be maintained before any competent tribunal, attempts will be made to obtain them by the thousand ways in which iniquity often triumphs over justice. Moreover, as the recovery of fugitive slaves is deemed a matter of serious importance by slaveholders generally, they will be ready to sympathise with, and eager to aid any of their fellows, in accomplishing, to them so desirable and necessary an object. The clause of the Treaty referred to enables them to do this, by affording them the best, because the easiest, the least expensive, and most effectual way of satisfying their cupidity and glutting their vengeance. That clause enables them to seize fugitive slaves even in the streets of London, to place them in custody, and by false accusations and the foulest means to obtain pos-

session of their persons, for the purpose of hurling them back again into a bondage more dreadful than that from which they had escaped at the peril of their lives. Surely, my Lord, the British Government can never be parties to so fearful a result as this.

The Committee enter not into the discussion of the policy or impolicy of the general principle involved in the extradition clause; they refer that to the wisdom of the Government and the Legislature; but they cannot willingly be parties to any arrangement which involves the possibility of the restoration of fugitive slaves to bondage, or which renders any part of the British dominions less the asylum of liberty than it is at present. They therefore earnestly beseech your Lordship, that, in the contemplated Act of Parliament for giving that clause effect, the Government will be pleased to provide that it shall not, under any circumstances, or under any pretext whatsoever, apply to the case of fugitive slaves, but that they shall be wholly excepted from its operation.

On behalf of the Committee,

THOMAS CLARKSON.

The noble Earl received the deputation with great courtesy, and intimated that he took the deepest interest in the security and welfare of the fugitive slaves who have sought and found refuge in Upper Canada. His lordship stated also that the greatest care would be taken to prevent, in their case, the abuse of the extradition article; but stated that, as the Treaty had been ratified, the prayer of the Memorial could not be acceded to without vitiating the whole of its stipulations.

Feeling the deep importance of the subject, and aware of the practical difficulty with which they had to contend, the Committee, after much anxious consideration and consultation, adopted the following preamble, resolutions, and petition, as expressive of their views of the measures necessary to be adopted to secure the great object they have in view.

At a MEETING of the COMMITTEE of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY, held at 27, New Broad-street, on Monday, the 27th February, 1843, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:—

As it appears that the prayer of the Memorial presented to the Earl of Aberdeen, relative to the tenth article of the Washington Treaty, viz., "That in the contemplated Act of Parliament for giving that article effect, the Government will be pleased to provide that it shall not, under any circumstances, or under any pretext whatsoever, apply to the case of fugitive slaves, but that they shall be wholly excepted from its operation;" is likely to be objected to, on the ground that it would vitiate the whole Treaty; and, as it is believed that the following recommendations, which are in harmony with the professed designs of the article, if adopted, will practically operate to secure the great object in view, it is resolved to urge the adoption of the same on the Government and, on Parliament, viz.:—

First—That under the said article of the Washington Treaty, no demand for the delivery of any person charged with a criminal offence, within the states or territories of the United States, shall be entertained, unless made by the Federal Government.

Second—That no person charged with such criminal offence shall be committed by British functionaries, in Canada, or elsewhere, with a view to surrender, except on the personal testimony of parties legally cognizant of the alleged offence, and unless the reputed criminal have every opportunity afforded of producing exculpatory evidence.

Third—That in the case of fugitive slaves charged with criminal acts by their masters or others, if it can be shown, or there is strong presumptive evidence to believe, that the alleged criminal acts were necessary to secure their escape from slavery—the doubt always being given in favour of such fugitive slaves—they shall not be committed for surrender.

Fourth—That all depositions or other documents, relating to the commitment and order for surrender of fugitive slaves, charged with criminal offences, shall be transmitted to her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; by whom they shall be submitted to the law officers of the Crown, without whose declaration of their validity and sufficiency, effect shall not be given to the same.

Fifth—That in the event of the delivery of fugitive slaves, charged with crimes, they shall, if proved innocent, or acquitted by the tribunals of the United States, in no case whatever be delivered over to their former masters, or their representatives; but shall be placed in a position similar to that which they occupied within the British territories, previously to any charge having been made against them; and that the same arrangement shall hold good in reference to fugitive slaves, who, after conviction, shall have survived the punishment awarded to them by law.

Sixth—That in the case of fugitive slaves, it shall be made a condition of their surrender, that they shall not be brought before any tribunal, or be subjected to the operation of any laws in the United States, to which freemen are not equally amenable.

On behalf of the Committee,

GEORGE STACEY, *Chairman*.

PETITION.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,

SHewETH,

That your Petitioners, greatly alarmed on perceiving the evil uses which may be made of the tenth Article of the Treaty of Washington, by the slaveholders of the United States, for the recovery of fugitive slaves; deeply impressed with the necessity of maintaining inviolate the right to liberty, acquired by every human being who may have obtained an asylum within the British dominions; and most anxious that, under no circumstances and upon no pretext whatsoever, this right should be abridged or modified,—

Your Petitioners earnestly and respectfully entreat, that in any measure your Honourable House may be called upon to pass to give effect to the said Article of the Treaty, provision may be expressly made, that in no case shall fugitive slaves, surrendered on the demand of the Federal Government of the United States for alleged criminal offences, be again subjected to the incidents of slavery.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

On behalf of the Committee,

JOHN SCOBLE, *Secretary*.

As the foregoing documents have been transmitted by circular to the members and friends of the Society in the country, all that remains for the Committee to do,—is to press upon their attention the urgency of the case, and respectfully to request that they will comply, as early as possible, with its recommendations.

In order still further to promote the end in view, a deputation from the Committee, composed of Messrs. G. Stacey, J. Beaumont, W. Ball, J. Cooper, J. Scoble, and M. L'Instant, waited, on Wednesday, the 1st instant, on Sir Charles Metcalfe, Bart., the recently appointed Governor-general of Canada, to whom they presented copies of the memorial and resolutions, and on whom they urged the extreme importance of the subject to which they referred. They were received by his Excellency with great urbanity, and were assured, not only of his great personal interest in the matter, but of the constant vigilance he would exercise, to prevent, if it were possible, the occurrence of the evil so much and so justly dreaded by the Committee.

WHATEVER opinions may be entertained by the abolitionists of this country, as to the most effectual means of suppressing the slave-trade, all will sincerely rejoice at any diminution of that nefarious traffic. The statement of Lord Aberdeen, in the House of Peers, on Tuesday, the 28th ult., in his answer to certain questions proposed to him by Lord Brougham, is extremely satisfactory. Though we cannot go along with his Lordship in believing that the diminution of the Cuban slave-trade is so great as it is represented to be, we are quite satisfied that, for some time past, it has been rapidly on the decline. The report of the Slave-trade Commissioners of Havana, referred to by his Lordship, indicates merely the number of slaves introduced during the last year into Cuba, of which they had any knowledge,—not the actual number which may have been disembarked along its extended line of coast. But whatever may have been the actual decrease in the number of slaves introduced, we are satisfied that it is to be attributed to other causes than the activity of our cruisers. The want of capital, the low price of produce, combined with over-production and a large glut of slaves previously imported, have been the main causes which have led to it; and we have no doubt that, were new markets opened for the sale of Cuban produce, and the commercial pressure which is now known to affect it removed, Cuba would again import slaves, in spite of treaties and the pledged honour of the Spanish Government, to prevent it.

We are by no means anxious to depreciate the claims of General Valdes, the present Governor of Cuba; but we are satisfied, from our private correspondence, that the praise lavished on him in the House of Peers, on a late occasion, must be received with some abatement. Most happy shall we be to find that the Spanish Government support him in the course which he is now said to pursue. We are convinced, however, that what has been done recently in Cuba is more to be attributed to the fear that England will demand the entire emancipation of all slaves illicitly introduced into the Spanish colonies since the year 1820, than to any honest desire to suppress the slave-trade. The noble Secretary for Foreign Affairs, we trust, will not fail to pursue that demand until full justice be done to our treaties with Spain, and her colonies acknowledge the supremacy of the laws which have been passed for giving them effect.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—FEB. 28.

SLAVE TRADE.

LORD BROUGHAM was much gratified to see the noble lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in his place, and would proceed to put a question to him which was of the very utmost importance at the present moment. He understood that in December last a commission had been issued to certain gifted and eminent individuals, Dr. Lushington, Captain Denman, Mr. Rothery, and Mr. Banel, empowering them to inquire into what had been the proceedings of the cruisers of this country under the treaties of 1831 and 1833. He knew that he could not ask for a copy of the instructions given to those commissioners, or for a copy of the commission; but he might inquire whether they had yet made any report, and would it be laid on the table of the House? Under present circumstances, he thought it was most important that the instructions given to our cruisers on the African coast should be made public, in order to disabuse the minds of Frenchmen from the erroneous impression under which that nation seemed to be labouring. A few words upon the subject from his noble friend would have the best possible effect in allaying that irritation which was now so prevalent in the neighbouring nation.

The Earl of ABERDEEN said, it was impossible for any one to be more desirous to diminish the extraordinary irritation which existed in France on the very important question of the right of search than he was; and he had no doubt that a few words of explanation would tend to remove the prejudice which appeared to remain in French minds; for he was convinced that the French nation was as desirous as England to put an end to the abomination of slavery. (Cheers.) That was an opinion that at all events was general, if not universal. (Cheers.) Those instructions were

not given, nor was that commission framed, with reference to any state of opinion in France. He should, however, here observe, that no formal commission had been issued. With the gentlemen who undertook to frame the proposed instructions the whole matter was a labour of love. That which had been done was this,—Her Majesty's Government requested a set of gentlemen, whom they deemed most competent for the discharge of such a duty, to undertake the task of revising all the instructions that had been issued during the last twenty years, and to form from them a uniform system or code for the assistance of officers commanding cruisers on that station, a station which, he need scarcely observe, was one of the utmost difficulty. There was no one who had occasion to turn his attention to those instructions but must at once perceive that they were in many respects inconsistent and contradictory; and he was sure that every one who heard him would agree in this, that officers in command of Her Majesty's ships ought to be furnished with clear and unequivocal instructions on as many points of difficulty as the utmost care and attention could anticipate. Looking at the events which had recently taken place, and comparing them with the past state of things, he felt bound to say that he was under a strong impression that the government of this country ought to afford the officers employed on that station all the assistance possible in the fulfilment of the important duties, and in discharge of the great responsibilities confided to them. Acting under the influence of that impression, he requested those to whom the commission was intrusted to prepare a new code, and it afforded him much pleasure to find that the selection which he had made appeared to give satisfaction to his noble and learned friend opposite. The request addressed to the commissioners was, that they would prepare a new code or system of instructions founded upon existing treaties, upon the laws of nations, and upon the known sentiments of the people and government of this country. It could occasion no surprise that the commanders of cruisers upon these stations fell into very serious errors, for the matters with which they had to deal often raised very serious questions—very important questions—belonging to the law of nations. Of these, such men, though able and skilful in their own profession, were not always very competent judges. Now, it did appear to Her Majesty's Government that one of the most effectual modes by which to conciliate the good opinion of all candid and right-thinking parties, having any interest in the matter, was by doing prompt and complete justice. In aiming at that object he saw much that would make any one feel astonished how rarely the officers employed on that station had deviated from the course which men the most learned and skilful in the laws of nations would have dictated. The deviations were in no case such as could be with any reason complained of, that was, taking all the circumstances into account. Looking, then, at the nature of the matters with which they had to deal, and looking at the character of the parties, it was thought that the instructions ought to be such as could conveniently be made public. (Hear, hear.) England had nothing to conceal. The more that was known of her proceedings in this matter the more would the principles upon which she acted meet with general approbation. It was intended, therefore, to maintain no secrecy with regard to those instructions; they would be such as might be laid before the world, and he had no doubt that they would produce the intended effect upon the minds of the candid part of the French public. As his noble and learned friend had given notice of the present question, it might, perhaps, afford him some satisfaction to learn the results which had been produced by the efforts that this country had made. He would be glad to hear that England had done a great deal to put an end to the traffic in slaves. In Cuba the trade had very materially diminished—a result which, in a great degree, was to be imputed to the conduct of the Governor-General—conduct such as merited the highest approbation. Her Majesty's commissioners at the Havana made a report, dated January 2, 1843, in which they said—"In presenting this report, we cannot but in the outset express our utmost gratulation that for the first time in the history of the Commission we are enabled positively to say that good faith has been observed as regards the treaty by this superior Government, and that the present Captain-General has, so far as personally has been in his power, fulfilled the promises he made in that respect on his first assumption of the command in the beginning of 1841. In making this just acknowledgment to General Valdez's integrity, we must also take into consideration the number of negroes declared emancipated by decree of the Mixed Court, whom he has put into full possession of their liberty, instead of re-assigning them into servitude amounting to slavery, according to the practice of his predecessors. We trust that the efforts of this Government, in interfering, as they are doing, to prevent the fitting out of slave-vessels, and the sailing of even such as might be engaged for that trade, may be crowned with success, and the trade as hitherto carried on may be considered at an end. The Governor has, moreover, within the year made five seizures of bodies of newly imported Africans, amounting in all to 754; so that these may be deducted from the number of new slaves, leaving the actual number only 2,396. The Governor also, during the year 1842, gave full freedom to 1,215 of the negroes emancipated by the Mixed Court prior to the treaty of 1835, and who, though nominally emancipated, had been retained in a state of virtual slavery." By General Valdez no negroes who had been declared emancipated under the decisions of the Mixed Court were placed out in that species of servitude which partook of the character of slavery, but were, on the contrary, wholly and completely set at liberty. This he did clearly to the disadvantage of his private interests; and it was a practice quite at variance with that pursued by his predecessors. It appeared that the number of vessels belonging to the Havana which in the year 1838 were engaged in the slave trade amounted to 71; in 1839, to 59; in 1840, to 54; in 1841, to 31; and in 1842 there were only three vessels so engaged. The number of negroes imported were, in 1839, as many as 25,000; in 1840, they were 14,470; in 1841, 11,857; and in 1842, only 3,150. In 1837, the year previous to the commencement of this return, the number imported was believed to be 40,000. The negroes emancipated under the decree of the Mixed Commission had hitherto been kept in a state of servitude amounting almost to slavery, and former Governments had refused to release them, contrary to treaty. They were not slaves, but they had never enjoyed entire freedom. The present Governor-General had, in the course of last year, released upwards of 1,200, and put them in possession of their entire freedom; a number not very con-

siderable still remained in a state of servitude. They might amount to about 300; but they also, there was no doubt, would be put in possession of their entire freedom. The governor also had, in the course of last year, made four or five seizures of crews of newly imported Africans, whom he had placed in freedom at once. It was known that the sacrifices which, in the performance of his duty, General Valdez had made, were to him the difference between great wealth and that poverty to which he had resigned himself, for General Valdez was a man of inflexible integrity, and was proud of his poverty, which he would not exchange for the guilt of riches acquired by such means as had been placed again and again within his reach. His noble friend knew, he was sure, that this was the case, and that the governor was, by the line he had followed, a loser to a great amount. If they had the good fortune to see General Valdez continued in the government of Cuba, no doubt would remain that the slave trade would in a short time be extinguished.

The Earl of CLARENDON said that the communication just made afforded him the highest satisfaction. He agreed as to the cheering prospect which this state of things afforded; he agreed as to the noble and generous conduct of General Valdez, for there was not a more honourable man living. The House might easily judge the facilities in this way which General Valdez possessed, when they were told that the practice had been to pay his predecessors a sum equal to 31. 16s. on the importation of every slave, and that one Governor of Cuba had realized as much as 500,000*l*.

LORD BROUGHAM observed, that many wise and even learned persons had made speeches and written books for the purpose of showing that all the efforts made by this Government to put down the slave-trade were perfectly idle—that until the interior of Africa become civilized, and until the Americans could be induced to abandon slavery, there was no chance of seeing it abolished. He quite agreed that the abandonment of it by America—an event which might take place in a century and a half from this time—or the civilization of Africa, which might occur in five or six centuries—would probably have the effect of putting an end to slavery; but he did not wish to wait for that; he therefore congratulated the House on all that they had heard that evening, and he cordially joined in the eulogium which had been pronounced upon General Valdez.

The Earl of HADDINGTON bore testimony to the excellent conduct of the naval officers employed on those pestilential stations where cruisers were required for putting down the slave trade. He was glad to perceive the name of Captain Denman at the head of the commission for preparing the code of instructions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—FEB. 3.

SUGAR DUTIES.

Mr. ROSS wished to know whether the right hon. gentleman opposite (Sir Robert Peel) was in a position to state authoritatively, whether any and what change would be made in the sugar duties?

SIR ROBERT PEEL said, that when the question was put to him on a former day, he had stated that he was not prepared to give an answer to it; and in reply to the honourable gentleman he had only to say that he could not give a more satisfactory answer to the question now.

Colonial Intelligence.

JAMAICA.—IMMIGRATION.—It appears that the expenses of the island, on account of immigration, have amounted, during the year ending September 30, 1842, to not less than 30,995*l*. sterling, while the number of immigrants introduced has been only 1,799, so that the immigrants have cost upwards of 17*l*. sterling per head. If we deduct, however, 2,164*l*. paid on account of last year's immigrants, 4,900*l*. for the purchase and equipment of two brigs, and 2,307*l*. on account of immigrant villages, there remains 21,623*l*. actually disbursed for the expenses of immigrants arriving during the year, being at the rate of 12*l*. 1s. 8d. sterling per head. Of the immigrants above mentioned, 582 were from Sierra Leone, 404 from St. Helena, 368 from the Bahamas, 18 from the United States, and 10 from Canada.

EXPORTS.—The total amount of sugar exported for the year 1841—2, being 45,613 hogsheads, 6,494 tierces, and 2,817 barrels, against 30,500 hogsheads, 4,436 tierces, and 2,296 barrels, for the year preceding. We can observe, also, a slight increase in the present year's manufacture of rum, as compared with the quantity of sugar; being to the extent of almost 300 puncheons upon the whole crop. The coffee crop also exhibits an increase of about 1,000 tierces; and the ginger and pimento crops appear to have been equally successful; altogether, therefore, we have reason to congratulate our country friends upon the so far successful result of their labours.—*Jamaica Royal Gazette*.

CROPS.—The agricultural prospects for the present crops are cheering. In round numbers, we may venture to say, that the crop for exportation this year will exceed 50,000 hhds., which will be an increase of 5,000 upon that of last year, and 20,000 upon that of the preceding.—*Jamaica Standard*, Feb. 3.

HARD WORDS.—In the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* of the 14th Dec. last, we ventured to state, what appeared to be the fact, that "Lord Elgin admits that there is no want of labour (in Jamaica,) and that the general accounts from the island are such as might also lead one to suppose them framed on purpose to contradict and put to shame the witnesses of the then West India party, who figure so conspicuously in the late Blue Book." On this paragraph the *Jamaica Despatch* of the 17th January comments in the following terms:—"Nor can we leave this portion of our summary, without noticing, in terms of the utmost indignation, the deliberate falsehood attempted to be perpetrated in the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* received by the last packet,—a falsehood which for tortuosity of honest language, and malignity of heart, can only centre in the breast of a paid parasite, the panderer to a party who do live, or can only live, by misrepresentation and slander. We certainly could get more labour than we at present possess, WERE WE TO PAY FOR IT; but would this be either honest or wise? Enough, however: such barefaced hostility must ever find its own antidote." We forgive our contemporary his abuse, and thank him for corroborating our statement.

BRITISH GUIANA.—COOLIES.—This Coolie speculation must, on the whole, have proved a very losing one. There were, we believe, 560 Coolies originally brought from Calcutta, of whom there now remain only about 340. Add to the expenses of maintaining them here, and the wages, small as they were, allowed by the indentures, the cost of their passage both ways, and we suspect it will be found that their labour has been very expensive. Their universal inclination to return home, is a striking commentary upon the cruel system of bringing only men. Had their families accompanied them, in all probability, the greater part would have been content to remain in the colony.—*R. Gazette, 10th January.*

TRINIDAD.—The news that Lord Stanley has acceded to the wishes of the Colonial party in England, on the subject of emigration from Africa, has been received in Trinidad with exultation. One of the gentlemen who waited on his lordship, in a letter to a friend in the colony, which appeared in the *Port of Spain Gazette*, 16th Dec. 1842, states that his lordship "expressed himself very fairly, so far as promoting emigration from the British ports on the coast of Africa; and added, that he asked us to favour him with our practical suggestions for carrying on this traffic, which we are now preparing." Having thus far gained his end, Mr. BURNLEY is now devoting all his energies to the extermination of squatters. As yet, however, the charge of squatting has only been brought home to thirty-two persons; and several even of these would appear to have had permits to settle, or to have acquired a sort of right of occupancy. The immigration expenses of Trinidad, for the year 1842, amounted to 15,000*l.*, and the expenditure exceeds the income by 11,000*l.* The number of immigrants brought in, at the expense of the colony, during the year, was 3,477; but, in addition to these, 1,500 arrived, who, from some cause or other, were not paid for by Government. With respect to the sugar crop of the present year, the accounts are most favourable. The following extract is from the *Trinidad Standard* of the 9th Jan. last:—

"The present crop—the commencement of which we may date from to-day—holds out more favourable hopes than any of the last few years. The weather during November and December has refreshed with showers those districts which had previously suffered from drought, whilst the southern parts of the island, where rain had been far too abundant, had obtained an equally valuable change to dry weather, and in these districts a good deal of sugar has already been made. All our information from various quarters of the colony agrees that the cultivation is in good condition, and if diminished in extent, as we believe it is in a slight degree, yet from the increased amount of labour now obtainable, it is somewhat improved in quality, and it is considered that should the crop season prove as favourable as is anticipated, the island may ship an increase of 2,000 hhds. over the quantity of last year."

BARBADOES.—A new plan of paying wages, and charging rents on the estates, is about to be generally adopted; but like all the other plans for coercing labour, will undoubtedly fail in the long run. It is thus stated in the *Barbadoes Liberal*, of the 14th January last. The labourers were to have their houses at a quarter of a dollar, (1*s.* 4*d.*) per week, rent which was to be paid by the head of the family, upon condition that he worked on the estate, and his wages were to be a quarter of a dollar per diem. If the wife and other members of the family worked on the estate, they were to pay no rent; but if they withheld their labour from the estate, a quarter of a dollar per week rent in addition was to be charged for each of them. And, with regard to the children, the planter was to be the judge when they were fit to work, and of the value of their services, in default of which services, the parents were to pay the eighth of a dollar per week rent for them also. This experiment has been tried on the estates of Mr. William Sharpe. The labourers have resented it, and have struck work. Our contemporary observes, "These people say, that for a long time they had been subject to a rent-fine of two bits (10*d.* sterling) a day—the price of a day's labour—for every day on which they chanced to be absent from work, whether occasioned by sickness or else. This rent-fine was exacted from every labouring member of the family alike, so that the rent paid for their huts, and paid too at times when they could least afford it—in sickness, for instance, was in direct proportion to the number in family. This is the general rule through the country, and here, as on other estates, the labourers were meek enough to submit to the dishonest exaction." This Mr. Sharpe was one of the witnesses who undertook to enlighten the West India Committee last year—the practices of the man now stand revealed. We are rejoiced that our energetic friend of the *Liberal* has determined to expose this evil until it be got rid of. Perhaps he will allow us to suggest that the most effectual way of accomplishing the object will be to seek the repeal of the absurd and unjust restrictions, now existing, which prevent the Barbadoes peasant from taking his labour to the best market. Ten thousand of them drafted off to such colonies as require them, would soon bring their masters to their senses.

S. J. PRESCOD, Esq.—We are extremely gratified to perceive that a requisition has been presented to our talented and upright friend, Mr. Prescod, to stand as one of the candidates for the representation of Bridgetown, Barbadoes, in the next General Assembly of the island, and that he has accepted the invitation. It will be a noble triumph to the gentlemen who have come forward on the occasion, if they return him as their representative, which we sincerely trust they will be able to do, though we know the formidable opposition they will have to encounter and overcome.—*Liberal, January 28.*

POSTSCRIPT.

The following interesting piece of intelligence has been received by the Malta mail of this morning:—

THE TRANSITION OF NEGROES FROM SLAVES INTO RESPECTABLE SERVANTS.

Tunis, Jan. 5, 1843.

We are progressing here as it should be with the abolition of slavery. I presume that you have seen the Bey's last circular order, "that every child of a slave in this regency shall henceforward be born a free subject." This measure alone would ultimately settle the affair; but I am sure that

nearly all the Moors yet possessing slaves, finding how short will be the time which they may call them theirs, will very soon give them their liberty, were it but to please the Bey, as many have already done; for they would not lose the service of the blacks, but find that they have only changed their names from slaves to that of faithful servants.—*Malta Times, Feb. 10.*

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following contributions have been received during the past month, and are hereby gratefully acknowledged:—

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Piper, D. H.		0 5 0
Smith, Thomas		0 10 0

Erratum.—In last list, instead of Cheltenham balance of last year 13*l.* 11*s.*, it should have been 13*s.* 11*d.*

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